

Senate Bill 743: Analyzing Traffic Impacts through Vehicle Miles Traveled



PURPOSE

California Senate Bill 743 was adopted in 2013 and has changed the way transportation impacts are to be evaluated for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act. Previously, transportation impacts were based on metrics that evaluated congestion, such as vehicular delay and volume-to-capacity ratios. These metrics can no longer be used in CEQA for evaluating transportation impacts.

Instead, the recommended metric is vehicle miles traveled or VMT. Use of this metric is intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote a diversity of land uses and encourage development of multimodal transportation networks.

[The California Office of Planning and Research](#) has developed a technical advisory that provides background on the implementation of VMT, guidance on how to analyze VMT, and substantial evidence for its recommendations. The OPR Technical Advisory is the basis for the City of Carlsbad VMT Analysis Guidelines.

The City of Carlsbad is adhering to the guidelines of SB 743 and will be taking public review and comment and formally adopting the thresholds of significance and screening criteria. Per state law, all projects are required to use VMT to evaluate transportation impacts for CEQA no later than July 1, 2020.

FOR REVIEW

- [City of Carlsbad Draft Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis Guidelines](#)
- [2012 Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita by Traffic Analysis Zone Comparison to City-Wide Average](#)
- [2012 Vehicle Miles Traveled per Employee by Traffic Analysis Zone Comparison to City-Wide Average](#)

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Presentation to the [Traffic and Mobility Commission](#) on May 4, 2020
- Presentation to the Carlsbad City Council on June 9, 2020

RESOURCES

- [County of San Diego SB 743](#)
- [Office of Planning and Research Guidelines](#)
- [Senate Bill 743 text](#)

MORE INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

- Jason Geldert, P.E., jason.geldert@carlsbadca.gov